

# ISAC Meeting – December 10

## ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

**SPONSOR (Name/Email):** Earl Chilton – earl.chilton@tpwd.state.tx.us

**TOPIC:** Development and use of an Approved List rather than a Prohibited List of exotic species

**SPEAKER (Name/E-mail):** Earl Chilton

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM :

Most states use some form of a Prohibited List to regulate the introduction, sale, and possession of exotic species. The problem with this is that these lists only comprise a tiny portion of the species in the world that are potentially invasive. Additionally, species that are typically included on these lists have already proven how detrimental they can be. In other words the damage has often already been done and the species are usually already established before they are listed. Under this system highly invasive species can be imported legally as long as they are not yet listed. Once a species has proven itself to be detrimental it may still take months or years to prohibit, depending on the state. Again, by the time it is prohibited there has often been ample time for establishment. Rapid response relative to new invasive species is very difficult under this system.

Texas is in the midst of developing an Approved List of aquatic exotic plants. Only species that have undergone a risk analysis that indicated low risk of invasiveness in the state will be included on the list. This approach errs on the side of caution and should be an improvement from a rapid response point of view. Should a new species be found in the state that is invasive it is already illegal and mechanisms will already be in place to have it treated. Additionally, a fine will be in place that can be levied against those that are in possession of it, or are selling it, especially if such possession and commerce can be shown to be intentional.

Some of the issues associated with this approach include:

- a. Cost/Benefit ratios – What if a species is rejected that is valuable economically
- b. Commercial use of exotic species – Biofuel from algae as well as vascular plant, and their seeds
- c. Special interests – Hobbyists and others who deal in rare species
- d. Increased law enforcement learning curve – LE personnel must become familiar with more species than before
- e. Efficacy of risk analyses

### 2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC?

A number of states appear to be interested in whether or not this approach can be successful given the anticipated difficulties with law enforcement and special interests.

### 3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

NONE

### 4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

NONE, except constructive analysis. This is an information item.

### 5. ALTERNATIVES:

### 6. ATTACHMENTS: